

# English 215 – Introduction to Literature

## Cumberland University – Spring 2013 – 3 Credits

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Rex **Section:** 02 **Time:** 9.30-10.45 **Room:** 205 Memorial Hall

**Office Hours:** 8.30-9.15 & 2-4ish MW, 11.00-12.30 TTR & By Appointment

**Office:** 200 C Memorial Hall **Phone:** (615) 547-1329 **email:** [mrex@cumberland.edu](mailto:mrex@cumberland.edu)

### Catalog Description:

This course is a survey of literary genres including fiction (the short story and the novel), poetry, and drama. The instructor may include other genres such as essays or literary non-fiction. The course introduces students to the essential elements of each genre to enhance analysis and understanding, and it encourages an appreciation for literary art.

### Course prerequisite:

A grade of “C” or better in ENG 102 or equivalent

### Course Outcomes:

You will gain experience in reading and responding, both orally and in written form, to many literary texts from different periods and cultures. You will practice the skills of close reading and analysis. You will learn to consider questions of genre and canon, as well as develop an awareness and understanding of concepts and vocabulary used in discussions of literature.

### Course Goals:

Students will develop a foundational knowledge of literary works, an appreciation for their value both to individuals and cultures, and an ability to analyze and engage in discussions of literary texts.

To meet these goals, we work towards the following:

The ability to discuss texts drawn from across a range of literary genres and periods

The ability to recognize and use appropriate terminology when discussing texts and concepts

The ability to interpret and critique literary based on standard practices

The ability to recognize and illustrate the concept of canon and canonization

The ability to appreciate a variety of cultures and perspectives through literature



## Course Requirements:

In order to meet the course goals, we will focus primarily on planning and revising your written work. So, an assignment description will be handed out for every written assignment. The course requirements (in bare-bones terms) are:

- Thorough Reading & Active Class Discussion - Quizzes
- Poetry Analysis Essay – over an approved poem
- Fiction Review Essay – over an approved novel
- Live Theatre Performance Attendance – 2 difference performances during the semester
- Two (2) Take-home Exams — Passage & term identification, and essays
- One (1) In-class Final Exam – same format as other exams.

## Grading Policy:

Grades in this course are set up on a 4.00 scale. (Which is NOT the University's scale)

Value:		Grading Scale:	
Class Discussion & Quizzes	25%	A- to A	3.72 – 4.40
Poetry Analysis Essay	10%	B- to B+	3.28 – 3.71
Fiction Review Essay	10%	C to C+	2.80 – 3.27
Live Theatre Performance	10%	D to D+	2.68 – 2.79
Exams (15% each)	45%	F	anything under 2.67

**R = Automatic Rewrite – given only on the Poetry & Fiction Essays (NOT the exams)**

## Course Policies:

All Students start out with a zero (0.00) in Class Discussion. In order to raise your grade, you **MUST** participate in classroom discussion over the assigned reading material. Turning in work, being in class, and talking with me after class **DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS CLASS DISCUSSION!!!!**

All formal assignments must be word-processed or typed. You must **KEEP A COPY OF PAPERS** submitted to me ALL Assignments are to be submitted through CANVAS.

If you do not submit your essay to the assignment on CANVAS, IT WILL NOT BE GRADED and it will be treated as late.

**ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME.** I tend to assign a lower grade on late work.

## Writing Centre Policy:

Prior to submitting the final draft of both your Poetry Analysis Essay and your Fiction Review Essay, you **MUST** make an appointment with Tabatha Rivers in the AEC Writing Centre to critique your essay. The Writing Centre hours are 1-5 & 6-8 MW and 1-5 TTR.

While it would not hurt your essay to submit it to the Smarthinking Writing Centre (on CANVAS), you should use it only **AFTER** you have gone over your essay with Tabatha.

If you do not make an appointment with Tabatha Rivers and go over your essay **BEFORE** you submit the final draft, your essay will lose 15% of the final grade.

## Late Paper Policy:

All assignments **MUST** be turned in on time. They **CANNOT** be turned in late. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts. If you cannot make a deadline, it is your **INDIVIDUAL** responsibility to contact me to arrange an extension. Do not assume that because I gave a classmate an extension that I will automatically give you one as well. While I understand the stress of everyday life, part of this class is to prepare you to meet deadlines. An essay will lose 5% of the final grade for each class day it is late.

**Absence Policy:**

This is not a correspondence course. Attendance is expected and roll will be taken every day at the start of class (DO NOT be late). Class attendance also means that you have read the material and are ready to discuss it. You will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences no questions asked. After that, each absence will severely impact your final grade. More than six (6) total absences and you WILL NOT pass. If you are a student athlete, the policies instituted by the Athletic Department WILL BE enforced for this class.

You can fail due to excessive absences, the grade will be recorded as “FA” - Failure due to Absences

**Being in class and not saying a word DOES NOT count as attending class.**

**Add/Drops:**

The University's add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the university deadline dates for dropping the course.

Last day to drop with a “W” – Friday 1 February 2013

Last day to drop with a “WP” or “WF” – Thursday 28 March 2013

**Dropping a class does not affect your GPA, but can affect your Financial Aid**

**Rewrites:**

I will not discuss a grade on an essay until at least 17 hours have passed.

You will have the opportunity to rewrite both essays – but not the exams. Rewriting involves more than just fixing misspellings or grammatical errors; it requires rethinking, reorganizing, and reworking the essay.

**(Automatic Rewrites [grade of R] are due one week after I have returned the papers to the class).**

The grade on the rewrite will be averaged with the original grade on the essay to decide the final grade.

Rewrites must be resubmitted to CANVAS.

If you are planning to do a re-write, you MUST make an appointment with me OUTSIDE of class to discuss your rewriting strategies BEFORE you begin the re-write. You must wait at least 17 hours after I have returned the paper before such an appointment will take place.

If you receive an “R” on ANY assignment, you MUST re-write that assignment if you want/expect to receive a passing grade for the course.

**Special Needs:**

Students with a disability must register with the Director of Disability Services/Counseling Center, to receive accommodations. A Registration/Application Form should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the second week of the course. Documented evidence of the disability is required. Students with documented disabilities may schedule an appointment with the Disability Services Office, in Labry Hall 225 by calling 615-547-1397. For additional information, please see: [http://www.cumberland.edu/disability\\_services/](http://www.cumberland.edu/disability_services/).

**Class Conduct:**

We are all adults and I expect you to behave like adults. We will treat each other with dignity and respect regardless of whether we agree or not. I do not expect you to agree with me on every interpretation/reading nor do I want you to merely regurgitate what I tell you in class. However, I do expect you to base your arguments on logical, evidence-based readings of the works that we are discussing.

**I-Pads:**

I-Pads may be used in class for CLASS WORK ONLY! Non-class related surfing, texting, angry birding, or other uses of the iPads is not acceptable.

### **Student Response System (aka “Clickers”):**

This semester, we will be using a Student Response System powered by Turning Technologies – these are known as “clickers”. You **MUST** purchase a “clicker” from the CU Bookstore by the **THIRD CLASS MEETING – 23 January 2013** – and bring it with you to every class meeting. We will go through the registration and channel setting process in class and then be using them to gage your understanding of the material discussed in and read for class. This forms 10% of your overall grade. We are **Channel 21**.

### **Poetry Analysis Essay:**

Choosing from a list of poems or an approved ballad, you will write a 1000-1100 word analysis of that poem using the techniques discussed in class and reviewed in *Writing Essays About Literature*. You will need to incorporate at least three (3) **SCHOLARLY** sources in your analysis, citing your primary and secondary sources in either Chicago or MLA format. If you must also provide a copy of the poem and/or lyrics you are analyzing.

### **Fiction Review Essay:**

This is a written assignment over an approved novel – traditional fiction, genre fiction, or graphic novel. You **MUST** get the novel approved by me first!! The actual title is up to you, as long as you get it approved. Your review must include a short plot summary and character sketch (500 words). However, the bulk of the review will be your analysis of the novel (900-1000 words). You will need to include at least three (3) **SCHOLARLY** secondary sources and cite your primary and secondary sources in either Chicago or MLA format. Consult *Writing Essay About Literature* for guidelines.

### **Live Performance Attendance:**

Over the course of the semester, you **MUST** attend two (2) **DIFFERENT** live theatre performances. These performances can be the performances here on campus, at a high school, at the various local community theatres in the area, and/or the various professional theatres. You will need to produce a program and a short review. If I see you at the end of a live performance, you will not need to do the review.

## **Cumberland University and Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism occurs when an author does not acknowledge through proper documentation the borrowing of another’s words, thoughts, or structure of ideas. Authors also plagiarize when they submit as their own work all or part of an essay, exam, or other written assignment written by someone else. Learning the proper methods of documentation will ensure that students avoid plagiarism.

You must submit an electronic copy of your essay to the corresponding Assignment in CANVAS – which will process your essay through Turnitin.com

My policy is inline with the University’s policy. If I catch you Plagiarizing, you will fail that assignment and will result in a Minor Violation of CU’s Academic Integrity Policy.

If you Plagiarize a second time, you will **FAIL THE COURSE!!!** This is a **MAJOR** Violation.

For the university policy on plagiarism, refer to the current edition of the Cumberland University Catalog or Student Handbook

**When in Doubt: ASK ME!!!**

### *The Cumberland Creed*

*Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability.*

### **Criteria for Evaluating Written Work:**

**Rhetorical Sophistication** – Effective writing is clearly and consistently developed to achieve a specific purpose for an appropriately targeted audience, using a uniform and effective voice.

**Quality of Thought** – Effective writing presents original, insightful, and persuasive ideas that are clearly explained and well supported. Effective writing takes into consideration the views of others.

**Structure** – Effective writing is clearly and appropriately structured to achieve its purpose with respect to the targeted audience. Paragraphs are used and structured appropriately with clear transition signals so that the essay is unified, coherent, and cohesive.

**Mechanics, Documents Design, and Usage** – Effective writing demonstrates a mastery of Standard Edited American English in terms of grammar and usage. Strong essays seldom, if ever, distract readers with errors in mechanics, document design, or usage.

**Use of Sources:** Effective writing often incorporates the ideas of others, using source materials appropriately to support and develop the writer's ideas. All Sources need to be cited correctly and follow an accepted form of Documentation.

**Use of Language** – Effective writing is more than the mere absence of errors. It demonstrates a skillful use of words, phrases, and sentences to eloquently convey ideas in memorable and interesting ways.

### **Other Stuff:**

If I am fifteen (15) minutes late for a class, unless I have contacted someone, the class is officially canceled.

**No texting during class please.**

In the event of extreme and/or adverse weather conditions, Cumberland University may be closed.

Text CUALERTS to 41411 to sign up for text updates.

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus with notification of the changes to you.

### **Food, etc in the classroom:**

Technically, food, drink, and smokeless tobacco are not permitted in classrooms at CU. However, I do not care if you have a snack and/a drink with you – with certain reservations. Do not make it a full meal or messy or with a strong smell – this is distracting. And smokeless tobacco is just too gross.

Remember to recycle your plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

IMPORTANT!!! I am deathly allergic to ALL forms of nuts – peanuts, walnuts, pecans, pistachios, cashews, etc. The slightest smell of any nut product – especially peanuts, peanut butter, pecans, and walnuts will kill me. I carry a double shot epi-pen at all times.

## **DO NOT BRING NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS INTO THE CLASSROOM**

### **Texts – The bulk of our texts are on CANVAS**

Poetry – PDF on CANVAS

Short Fiction – PDF on CANVAS

Euripides – *Medea*: PDF on CANVAS

Henrik Ibsen – *A Dolls' House*: PDF on CANVAS

Sheri S. Tepper – *The Gate to Women's Country*: free hardcopy from me

At CU Bookstore:

William Shakespeare – *Twelfth Night or What You Will*

Aphra Behn – *The Rover or The Banished Cavaliers*

Betty Shamieh – *Roar*

Katherine O. Acheson – *Writing Essays About Literature*

# Calendar

## Week 1

Mon. 14 Jan.: General Introduction – Questions asked and Answers attempted

We. 16 Jan.: Poetry and Poetics

William Shakespeare – Sonnet 116

John Donne – Canonization

## Week 2

Mon. 21 Jan.: Martin Luther King Jr Day – No class.

Wed. 23 Jan.: Poetry – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17 Century

Isabella Whitney – To Her Unconstant Lover

John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester – The Imperfect Enjoyment

Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle – The World in an Eare-Ring

Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea – A Nocturnal Reverie

Chapter 1 in *Writing About Literature (WAL)*

## Week 3

Mon. 28 Jan.: Poetry – 19<sup>th</sup> Century

George Gordon, Lord Byron – She Walks in Beauty

Alfred, Lord Tennyson – Crossing the Bar

Elizabeth Barrett – How Do I Love Thee

Robert Browning – My Last Duchess

Chapter 2 in *WAL*

Wed. 30 Jan.: More 19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry

Christina Rossetti – A Better Resurrection

Emily Dickenson – Death

Walt Whitman – I Hear America Singing

William Carlos Williams – Red Wheelbarrow

Chapter 2 in *WAL*

## Week 4

Mon. 4 Feb.: Poetry – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

WH Auden – Stop All the Clocks

Stevie Smith – Away Melancholy

Dylan Thomas – Do Not Go Gentle

Nikki Giovanni – A Greater Love of God and Country

Chapter 4 in *WAL*

Wed. 6 Feb.: Poetry late 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Bobbie Gentry – Ode to Billy Joe

Björn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson – The Winner Takes It All

DeWayne Blackwell & Earl Bud Lee – Friends in Low Places

Kelly Clarkson – Because of You

Chapter 5 in *WAL*

**You MUST have chosen your poem or song lyric by now.**

Week 5

Mon. 11 Feb.: Short Fiction

Nathaniel Hawthorne – Rappaccini's Daughter  
Bret Harte – The Luck of Roaring Camp  
Chapter 6 in *WAL*

Wed. 13 Feb.: Short Fiction

Shirley Jackson – The Lottery  
Ursula K. LeGuin – The Ones Who Walked Away  
Chapter 6 in *WAL*

Week 6

Mon. 18 Feb.: More Short Fiction

Ernest Hemingway – Hills like White Elephants  
Katherine Mansfield – Her First Ball  
Chapter 7 in *WAL*

**Poetry Analysis Essay is Due**

Wed. 20 Feb.: Last day of Short Fiction

D.H. Lawrence – The Rocking Horse Winner  
Eudora Welty – Why I Live at the P.O.  
Chapter 8 in *WAL*

Week 7

Mon. 25 Feb.: The Novel – Social Science Fiction and Contemporary Society

Sheri Tepper – *The Gate to Women's Country*: Chapters 1-9  
Chapter 9 in *WAL*

Wed. 27 Feb.: On-line Assignment on The Novel (class will not meet – I will be in Charleston, SC)

Sheri Tepper – *The Gate to Women's Country*: Chapters 10-18  
Chapter 10 in *WAL*

Week 8

Mon 4 Mar.: The Novel

Sheri Tepper – *The Gate to Women's Country*: Chapters 19-27

Wed. 6 Mar. The Novel & the Fiction Exam

Sheri Tepper – *The Gate to Women's Country*: Chapter 28 - End

Week 9

SPRING BREAK

**No classes – Be Careful & have FUN!!!! USE PROTECTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Week 10

Mon. 18 Mar.: Drama – Greek

Euripides – *Medea*

Wed. 20 Mar.: Drama – 16<sup>th</sup> Century

William Shakespeare – *Twelfth Night or What You Will*

**Fiction Exam is Due FRIDAY 22 March by 3 pm**

Week 11

Mon. 25 Mar.: Drama – 16<sup>th</sup> Century  
William Shakespeare – *Twelfth Night or What You Will*  
Wed. 27 Mar.: Drama – 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Aphra Behn – *The Rover or the Banished Cavaliers*

Week 12

Mon. 1 Apr.: Drama – 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Aphra Behn – *The Rover or the Banished Cavaliers*  
Wed. 3 Mar.: Drama – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Henrik Ibsen – *A Dolls' House*

Week 13

Mon. 8 Apr.: Drama – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Henrik Ibsen – *A Dolls House*  
Wed. 10 Apr.: Drama – 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Drama Exam  
Betty Shamieh - *Roar*

Week 14

Mon. 15 Apr.: Film – The Forgotten Genre  
*Rocky*  
Wed. 17 Apr.: Film – *Rocky*

**Drama Exam is Due FRIDAY 19 April by 3 pm**

Week 15

Mon. 22 Apr.: Film – *My Cousin Vinny*  
Wed. 24 Apr.: Film – *My Cousin Vinny*

**Fiction Review Essay is Due FRIDAY 26 April by 3 pm**

Week 16

Mon. 29 Apr.: Film – *The Joy Luck Club*  
Wed. 1 May: Film – *The Joy Luck Club*

**Final Exam (In class): Monday 6 May 1-3 pm**